sheep, according to circumstances. Timber is exceedingly scarce, and hence the houses are generally of the vaulted kind. A part of the population is in summer under tents, and in winter they flit to warmer climates. Fodder is moderately abundant. There are considerable spaces without cultivation, and the population on a given surface is much inferior to that in the valley of Cabul.

## Jajee.

208. This is a narrow valley, and its climate is cold; the stream ultimately joins the Koom. The stream natives mainly subsist by tillage, and the chief products in their order are wheat, barley, rice, and pease. The lands are watered. The chief stock is goats. Timber, fuel, and fodder are abundant, and some provisions are exported to Cabul, to which they also send some planks of pine, about six or seven feet long. The carriage is on mules, for the nearest road to Cabul (with which they have most intercourse) is not practicable for a bullock or camel, it is called the road Goubund. The natives live in flat-roofed houses, and have no tents. The population is but small, and there is no large village.

## Notice of an inscription in Behar, communicated by MR. RA-VENSHAW, as published in the May number of the Journal, 1839.

The Editors of the Journal noted (vol. viii. page 347,) in announcing the communication by Mr. Ravenshaw of certain impressions of very ancient inscriptions from Behar, that " the most important and interesting of these impressions were so imperfect, and confused, as to baffle the attempts of the Pundit Kamala Kanta, who aided Mr. James Prinsep in his valuable discoveries. We allude particularly to the inscriptions on the inverted column in the Fort of Behar."

I have now the pleasure of laying before the readers of the Journal a rendering of one of these inscriptions as decyphered by Pundit Kamala Kanta Vidyalanka, and Baboo Hurrinboonath. They succeeded in giving this interpretation after a great expense of time and labour. The characters are of a class



1840.]

the creed of the person who caused it to be inscribed, who was evidently not a Boodhist.\*

Nos. 1 and 2 (duplicates) of the Behar inscriptions have been for the most part read by Pundit Kamala Kanta, but he is as yet unable to make out their full meaning. The character is not the same with that of No. 3, now published. As hopes are entertained of the arrival of that excellent orientalist, and able antiquary, the Honorable George Turnour, Secretary to Government in Ceylon, at this Presidency before the close of the present year, and as it is believed that he will make a tour through Behar and elsewhere, for the purpose of exploring still further the interesting subject of Boodhist antiquity, I trust to see these remains critically considered by a scholar in every way competent to pronounce upon their æra.

In the mean while, it is our duty to make the most of imperfect opportunities, in order to publish (submitting it to the judgment of abler critics) whatsoever casual research has put us in possession of.

I may here remark, that circumstances appear hitherto to have conspired to prevent more than a very cursory inspection of the remains of Hindoo monarchy in Magadha (Behar) and Mithela, (Tirhoot and Sarun.) Indeed Mr. Hodgson's brief, but interesting note of Simrown in the Turaee (vol. iv. Asiatic Society's Journal, p. 121) is the only description we possess of that ancient city, while the Behar inscriptions, one of which Mr. Ravenshaw's discoveries have enabled me to publish, have been copied in some instances with more haste than was consistent with correctness; and by the specimen now afforded, seem rather valuable as tending to excite further investigation, than as rewarding the search already undertaken. An ample and untried field is opened for inquiry in these regions, and it is sincerely to be hoped that no opportunity may be neglected of engaging in it.

\* The injunction No. 8, with its allusion to a *conquered*, and acquired territory, might by conjecture be assumed to point to Jara Sandha, who having subdued the whole of *Prachi* "(the eastern region) as we read in the *puranas*, fixed his residence at Bali putra." (Wilford, As. Res. vol. v. p. 281.) In the month of February last, Captain Burt of the Engineers, obligingly supplied the officiating Secretary with the fac-simile of an inscription taken by him at Pinjore; it was discovered there on the side of a well. The character is, as Captain Burt observes, different in many letters from all the alphabets given by Mr. James Prinsep; Kamala Kanta has therefore prepared an alphabet from it (No 4) and enabled me to give the accompanying translation.

"The monarch of Shonder Desh, who resembles Kamdeo in beauty and renown, having again in this manner fully enjoyed, will become ruler of other countries."

The meaning of the rest is not clear. I have endeavoured to trace the *Shonder Desh* herein mentioned, but ineffectually. The inscription therefore is, like the one above noted, valuable only philologically speaking. The neighbourhood of Pinjore to Phanesur might induce the belief that the region in which it was anciently included would not escape unnoticed in the Maha Bharat.

Account of Coins found at Bameean.—By Captain HAY, 1st European Regiment, Commanding 5th. Regt. H. M. S. S. M. Infantry.

## Bameean, April 7th, 1840.

A doubt having been expressed whether "Demetrius" ever reigned in Bactria, the fact of one of his coins having been discovered in digging some trenches at Bameean, may be considered as likely to strengthen the opinion that he did : and as this coin I believe differs from the only one of his reign that is said to have been hitherto discovered, I take the liberty to forward you a sketch of it, in case you may consider it worthy of notice. The first "Demetrius" discovered was I think of gold, having upon the reverse the two horsemen so common and beautifully executed on the coins of Eukratides. I take these figures to represent Castor and Pollux, who were entitled, as Hercules is, to divine honours. My coin, which is of copper,

68

SIR,